

Coastal News

email: coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz

covering Mapua & Ruby Bay
run by volunteers

Cycle tracks, rowing course attract interest

There was a great turnout at the May meeting of the Mapua & Districts Community Association with over 40 people attending. Aside from some interesting updates on existing projects and proposals, two other drawcards brought people along to listen to a couple of interesting presentations:

Proposed Nelson cycle trails proposal which would create, extend and link existing cycle routes within the top of the south in order to create a world class destination for cycle tourists and local recreational riders. The proposal underscored the region's already existing core infrastructure and was well received by those present.

A second presentation informed members about a proposed Tasman Aquatic Multisport concept for Rabbit Island. The finer points for this proposal were outlined, the objective being to develop an international sporting facility which would incorporate a multi-sports flat water facility for rowing, kayaking and skiing. It was proposed that such a course should be non-commercially operated and provided to the community with minimal cost.

It was decided that any course would have to meet certain criteria such as the course being available to as many flat water sports and users as possible; it must be able to be used for non-sporting activity when not in use; it must have as little environmental impact as possible and should enhance it where possible; it must be built to international standards; should be useable in windy conditions if possible; close to amenities and services, with easy access to water for filling; it must not be able to stagnate in any way and the operation must not be for profit.

There was extensive discussion in regard to funding. It was estimated that the course would cost about \$6m. The Trust anticipates that there will need to be funds raised to meet the balance of the cost over and above the \$3.1m put forward in the draft LTCCP.

Planting project: For all those interested in joining in some community fun for a good cause, why not come along to the Moreland Place Estuary Planting Project—Saturday 22 August at 9.30am at the Reserve. Sicon will prepare the site prior to planting so it will be a breeze and a good way to get involved in a community project with no cost to you except two hours of planting fun.

Waimea Estuary Co-ordinator Position: This came under extensive discussion at the meeting. A volunteer co-ordinator is really needed to bring the future of the estuary more into the community so if you or anyone you know has the time and skills to become involved, let us know. "We are the estuary, the estuary is us."

Coastal Initiative Group: This group is working on adding value to the old Coastal Highway corridor being created by the Ruby Bay by-pass. A new name is being considered for the Coastal Road which will be a great council asset when they decide to take it over.

Waterfront Park: Comments gathered from the sub-committee's consultation with the community have been taken into account and being worked on. The TDC has given the go-ahead for design and development. Outstanding issues were 1) Parking, site audit, the planting of fruit trees, and 2) A performance space with two areas was proposed incorporating amphitheatre and performance stage.

This was an exciting time and the community must remember that funding for this is competed for and shared by other projects. It is not at a stage where it can be costed out so input was invited from anyone in that regard.

Seawall: The consent process for this project was being worked through and expected for the end of May, if not sooner. August was a possible expected timeframe for work to start.

Mapua Domain: Much has been achieved recently on the domain. The toilet block refurbishment has been completed – consideration was being given to painting design of the external walls, hopefully with community involvement; the pathway around

Coastal Garden Goup

It was hard to get the May Garden Club meeting started, as there were lines of members queuing up outside the hall to purchase the fertiliser they'd ordered. The club had bought half a ton of microbial fertilizer from Fertilizer New Zealand, and before the meeting we were bagging it and selling it outside the hall.

We had a very well attended meeting with 60 people present, and several new members. Introductory discussions were held on such diverse subjects as monthly newsletters, refunds from bulb orders, the Spring Flower Show, the planting of the rhododendron dell at Aranui Park, an overnight visit to a rhododendron dell on Banks Peninsula, afternoon tea rosters, a new notice board with a wish list for members seeking plants, the forming of a new garden club library and participation in this year's Mapua Show.

Our speaker for this month was Jean Southward who runs the garden centre for Bunnings in Nelson. Jean brought with her Bronwyn, the community coordinator for Bunnings. Jean was the winner of a NZ Gardener Award, one of the prizes from this was a ticket to the Ellerslie Flower show in Christchurch. Her presentation focused on her experiences at the show: the main one being disappointment, as the queues were so long and the crowds so large, that it was hard to see much. However, she's so passionate about gardening, that she

says she's going back for more next year. The presentation included slides of many of the sculptures there. She said that the show had a very practical feel to it; many of the exhibits shown were things that the average gardener could achieve.

Max presented his monthly notes including: dividing potential compost into suitable and unsuitable items, chopping leaves before composting, ridding lawns of weeds, raising mower blades, planting winter crops of lettuce. The main chewing insects are gone now that we've had the first frosts, but the slugs and snails are there, so apply sawdust, as they hate it! We learned that dahlia tubers often rot as water collects in their hollow stems, so invert them to prevent this.

There were mixed views and entertaining discussing on whether fat spring bulbs will be as good next year as this (feed them well and they may just be), and the ideal number of stems to leave on show chrysanthemums.

After tea, the results of the Bloom, Cluster and Shrub competition were announced. Then the plant auction was held, with several interesting items on sale.

The next monthly meeting is on Thursday 4th June. We meet at 1pm for a 1.15pm start in the Supper Room at the Mapua Village Hall. If you would like to join us, either as a visitor or a potential new member, please come along. All enquires to Max Hornblow (540-2718).

Richard Bamfield, secretary

Cycle tracks: contd

the domain has been completed, grass along the edges was growing; the soccer pitches have been rearranged and night lighting was working well for football practice; cricket nets were going in shortly; bollards along the northern edge of the domain were in, with removable ones being inserted instead of gating; trimming of trees was awaited; a drinking fountain would be installed in due course. What an improvement for the whole community to enjoy!

Cycleways and Walkways: Work was ongoing with the TDC to make this walkway a safer and dryer place to be. Community assistance would be sought for gravelling the pathway from the school to the beach. Meanwhile, work had started on the Seaton Valley pedestrian and cycleway which will mean greatly improved safety for users of that road. Cycleway projects along the Ruby Bay by-pass are work in progress.

Pam Stinton, Secretary

Garden Notes



June, the first of the dead months. Temperatures have dropped and winter has arrived. Not much can generally be done outside in the garden during June. Once the spraying programmes are complete and the soil is dug, little remains but to turn all the prunings and debris into compost.

June is a good month in which to improve the soil fertility in preparation for spring. The vege garden will benefit from a good dressing of dolomite lime now. Lime is great for leaf crops and produces fine broccoli, cabbage, rhubarb and silverbeet. Building up the soils with compost will prepare them for the crops to be planted in August/September.

Keep the push hoe active wherever possible to allow air to reach plant roots. This encourages them to grow and helps drainage. Polyanthuses, primroses

and primulas can be planted now. June is the best month to plant all fruit trees.

Winter roses (Hellebores) are back in fashion. They look splendid at the edge of a path or planted en masse under trees. They are woodland plants and prefer dappled light. They grow easily from seed, or division is another way to propagate.

Persimmon is a most delicious fruit that has found favour again and will grow well in the Tasman area. Some forms are hardier than others. Inquire about the one best suited for you. As an ornamental tree the persimmon is splendid, with autumn colour, delicious highly decorative winter fruit, handsome new foliage and fine grey bark to add its attraction. Do add it to your collection.

Keep warm and cheers.

Barry Highsted

A Country Occasion

Something to look forward to—a day in the country at Neudorf, 29 November (Sunday 10am until 4pm).

A day in the country with stalls selling everything from gardening gear to honey, antiques to jewellery. We serve food and wine and it's all for charity. Last time we gave more than \$18,000 for our three selected charities—the Moutere Community Centre, Child Cancer and the Moutere Youth Group.

So mark it in your diary. If you would like to have a stall email judy@neudorf.co.nz, or phone 543-

2643 and talk to either Judy or Kirsten. The number of stalls is limited so we can't guarantee everyone will get a site. If you can set your stall up the evening before (which means no trailers on the morning of the fair) you can choose your site under the trees or out in the open.

Overnight security will be provided.

This year the day starts an hour earlier to allow more time for stall-browsing before lunch.

Le Havre Collections brings French flavour to Mapua.

Opened in October by Anette Drewery from Ruby Bay, Le Havre Collections is the latest addition to the growing number of boutique stores at Mapua Wharf. Aptly named, 'le havre' is French for 'the harbour', capturing the spirit of the wharf while at the same time in keeping with the style of the shop.

Items range from fragrances from Provence to contemporary Italian jewellery, beautiful old French shutters, Moroccan leather work, vintage Egyptian furniture and fittings and stylish mirrors. There are also many smaller gifts and furnishings for your home. So with furniture and interior décor from far and wide, Anette assures people that they will enjoy the experience. Her main focus is providing exactly what her sign says, something 'distinctively different' and in contrast to what some people may believe the shop has something for everyone. Prices range from as little as \$4.

A lot of hard work has gone in to making Anette's dream a reality. A buying trip to Morocco last April resulted in Anette bringing back a container of items for her shop, including one-off pieces of furniture, wonderful mosaics, Safi pottery and wrought iron work. People don't realise the time, effort and cost involved in bringing things into the country from overseas. Most of the bigger pieces she brought in have already gone so Anette is busy getting a shopping list together for her next container. So if you have any requests please pop in and say hi or give her a call. Anette and her

four legged friends (who give another meaning to the saying 'it's a dog's life') are always up for a chat and shopping being one of Anette's passions means she is always more than happy to help source all your interior needs.

The Mapua Coolstores offer the perfect oasis for Le Havre Collections. The open space and crisp white walls compliment the shop's interior beautifully, making for a pleasant shopping experience. Anette and her husband Graeme, who is the muscle behind the scenes and played a large role in getting the shop to its present splendour, have tried to keep the building as close to its original state as possible, leaving in place the cool store fans and pipes.

Mapua Wharf is becoming a hive of activity and is a great place for a day out with its diverse range of shops and places to eat. There are a number of businesses that have opened in the last year, helping put Mapua on the map. It is great to see people taking the plunge and realising their dreams and like Anette they are hoping that people will continue to support them during the quieter months of winter.

Anette would like to thank all of her customers for their support over the past few months and hopes to see everyone again soon.

Le Havre Collections is at Mapua Wharf, opposite the Brewery and is open seven days a week from 11am. For more information please call Anette at the shop on 540-3313.

Magic of Mapua

There are now six clear months before the weekend of the bi-annual Mapua Show and the organisation for this event is well advanced. A great deal of creativity has always gone into presenting this show and 2009 promises to be no exception, with a new theme and fresh ideas from an enthusiastic organising committee. This year's committee contains a healthy blend of members who have had the benefit of being part of previous committees, plus an infusion of new people keen to build on the successes of the past.

The organising committee has begun the process of building a trellised framework for many of the display areas in our 2009 show. This will enhance the ability of displaying artists and crafts people to provide an interesting and attractive backdrop to their work and will also increase display space, should it be required..

Our show's on-going theme, "The Magic of Mapua," is open to wide interpretation. To those of us who live

here, the magic is part of our everyday lives but to visitors, it is about mountains, sea and sky. In 2009 our focus for decorating the hall will be on an ephemeral part of a rainy landscape, "Rainbows."

We have received an early and positive response from local artists for display space, with many already committed to participating. Recent major events in Mapua have received wide public support both within and beyond our community. Our art and craft focus also has wide appeal. Some of the visitors to our 2007 event were so impressed that they came several times over the weekend.

If you like the sound of this event keep part of the weekend of 14 and 15 November free. If you are a local artist and haven't already received an invitation to display your work, contact either Debbie Bamfield 540-2942 or Jude Bethwaite 540-3013, as soon as possible.

Mapua & Districts Soccer Club

Let there be light!!

Mapua is now the proud owner of four sets of football pitch lights! This is a great asset to the club and the community. They are being used for practice sessions most nights during the week by senior and junior teams. On behalf of the club the committee would like to thank the Mapua Hall Committee for their assistance with this project, it would not have been possible without them, Tasman Trust for a much appreciated grant towards the cost of the lights, a huge thank you to Dave Francis, who spent far too many hours on this project but did a great job. Also thanks to Bill Ashton for installing the lights in record time.

Fund-Raising

As I'm sure many of you realise, with any non-profit club or organisation, one on-going job is that of fund-raising. Mapua and Districts Club is lucky to have a committee and lots of willing members that are always thinking of new ideas and always ready to lend a hand. We are also extremely lucky to have Shelley Williams who has been responsible for raising \$10,900 for the club. These grants have allowed the club to purchase much needed new kit which includes new kit for the 11th grade, senior men's and junior grades, the domain lights and new equipment. So thank you Shelley for all your efforts and hard work in implementing these grants. Of course as always, we are always looking for new ideas for fund raising. So if any one has any



ideas or would like to offer their help in any future events please get in touch with Shelley Williams, 540-2417, or Sian Potts, 540-2248.

Club Notice Board

The new notice board is up and running outside Four Square. It would be great to keep this busy with lots of information about the club and coming events with in the club. If any one would like to put a notice on the board, or if you have any football kit that you would like to buy-sell-swap or if you have taken any action shots of your child/husband/wife during their games please contact Dave Francis on daf@blacksheeptouring.co.nz

Team Profile – Midgets

Mapua Midgets have had a great turn out this year with 26 registered players. We have three Mapua teams and on Saturdays we play against two teams from Rangers and one team from Motueka. All the players seem to be really enjoying it and we look like we have some future star players with in the group. – Craig McMiken

Contacts:

Mapua and Districts Football Club, PO Box 38, Mapua
Tony Jemmett, Ph 540-3664
Toby Wild (Senior Men's co-ordinator) 540-2030
Bridget Wild (Senior Women's co-ordinator) 540-2030
E-mail Jemmz@xtra.co.nz

Mahana School



Having been out of town for a while I caught up on the majority on what's been happening at Mahana School lately with a quick visit one lunchtime. When I asked a group of students – juniors to seniors – to tell me what “cool” things have been going on, the reply was “cooking,” all said in unison and with loads of enthusiasm.

The favourites were pikelets, biscuits and “wedgies” – I presume derived from potatoes? As I was writing it down I was prompted to make special mention about the sushi they had made also. They all gracefully acknowledged the parent help with the cooking exercises too.

The cooking is part of the school's current focus on the food groups. The kids had very sound explanations of how the food pyramid works and why eating “your colours every day” is so important. Even the juniors have a good grasp of the importance of eating five-plus a day fruit and vegetable.

I asked about sports and first mentioned was the recent hockey tournament held at Saxon Field with the teams made up of year fives and up. As for upcoming sporting events most were looking forward to the upcoming Rippa Rugby tournament in Motueka shortly.

I asked the kids about the recent IT upgrade. They excitedly told me about the “awesome” big screen TVs on the classroom walls and new Mac Ibooks that are on their way. The kids have become competent bloggers and computer users and are looking forward to the last of them being installed as the school is planning to hold a celebration and invite us parents down to “have a go.” I explained I hadn't had much experience with Macs and was reassured that “They're easy peesy, we can show you.” I'm not doubting that for a minute!

Leadership skills have been another focus of the school, with the year sevens and eights being taught new games by Matt from Sport Tasman.

Encouraging the children to participate in some of the decision-making within the school has seen some positive reactions. Mahana has had a tradition of referring to the three classrooms as the junior, middle and senior rooms. The students have been asked to think of new names for their classrooms.

Another example of student input the kids I spoke told me about is an upcoming field trip to the town libraries. They have established a small ‘focus group’ to accompany some of the teachers to have a good look around the libraries to note down ideas and ways that they could improve our own school library.

Just before the bell rang I had a brief rundown from the kids about the drama activities they are enjoying. They have been learning a couple of plays and performing in front of their classmates. There was a quick discussion about how the school should do a production, but I have to “watch this space.” (And the kids that gave up some of their lunch break to help me compile this).

For further information about Mahana School and to view our children's recent activities, visit us on www.mahana.school.nz – much of the content on the site has been contributed by our pupils.

If you are considering a school in the district and would like to have a look around, please call Jenny in the office on 543-2887 to arrange an appointment.

Tony Brown, Mahana School parent, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Mapua School

Easter fair benefits local children



If you were involved in any way at all with the Easter Fair, organising or participating, then you would be fully aware of what a fabulous event it was. If one stops, for even a moment, and thinks about the fair it's certainly not every day that a village of Mapua's size can open its doors and host something like 15,000 visitors. The top-of-the south magazine *Wild Tomato* recently published a great article on the village that showcased the wonderful attributes this part of New Zealand presents (and we all get to experience). It's events like the Easter Fair that bring people from near-and-far to Mapua and serve to confirm what a great place it is.

For Mapua School, and Playcentre, this fair is a valued and important lifeline. The significant funding that comes to these two community organisations is incredibly important in supporting and maintaining the programmes that are offered. Writing as principal of Mapua School I am acutely aware of how limited our budgets are and how much we rely on community funding to provide quality educational experiences for the children of this community. If schools were to rely solely on the state contribution to our coffers we would be limited to providing the very basics. Our school would be so much poorer for the fact, and our programmes would certainly lack the gloss that makes education exciting, stimulating, and successful for children.

Mapua, like many schools, relies heavily on community funding for a myriad of resources. A number of studies, both government and interest group initiated, have outlined the importance of community funding for schools, and highlighted the fact that government funding does not meet the demands placed on schools. Education providers, such as Mapua School, are asked to deliver an increasing range of educational and family support services but government funding does not always follow such expectations.

So with cap-in-hand we support the wonderful work of our PTA, and in this instance the Easter Fair Trust/PTA/Playcentre alliance. Angela Fon, Easter Fair Trust co-ordinator, facilitated a fabulous event that will produce significant funding for the school and Playcentre. As a newcomer to this area, and the fair itself, I was simply blown away by the size of the event, the huge community involvement that occurred, and the positive spirit of all concerned. On behalf of Mapua School I wish to thank Angela and her team of workers, whether they be PTA, Playcentre, community members, sponsors, or simply people who give their time to a good cause, for their amazing energy and enthusiasm that pulled off this fabulous fair and from which the school and Playcentre will benefit greatly. You are all 'superstars' as far as we are concerned.

Neil Chalmers, principal, Mapua School

Persuasive writers

Room 7 students at Mapua School are learning to write 'persuasively'. One of the pieces they had to write about was whether cancelling break time to allow for more learning time was a good idea or not. Here are three of the arguments written as a result of this prompt:

Fabian: Many people say that children would have more time to work if playtime is cancelled. I think that it's a really good idea that the school is cancelling break time. This is going to be great because we can go home early and do our homework. When we have finished the other schools will be doing their homework and we will be into our leisure time. If a school cancels break time, there'd be no gaps in our learning. We would be learning more and winning competitions with high test scores. This would be a benefit because more people would want their children coming to this school because they would want them to be smart too. Thirdly, the

staff would not have to go on duty. This is a benefit because we would not have grumpy teachers making us miss our lunchtime. So do you want to have more leisure time, a smarter school, more friends coming to this school and no grumpy teachers? If the answer is yes, then banning break times is a great idea.

Nikau: Ahh! Fresh air. However, many people say that children would have more time to work if playtime was cancelled. I don't believe in this statement at all. I believe it would be harmful to our learning and it is an outrageous statement. Firstly, break time does not take away learning time, instead it gives you time for learning social skills. If you try to get a job and don't know how to socialise with people in a positive way the employer will choose someone else over you. Secondly, students need to run around and enjoy the rough and tumble that occurs

Contd:

at break time. This is part of the process of growing into strong sports people. Thirdly, we would become unfit and overweight. Unfit people become sick a lot easier than fit people therefore they would miss out on school. Parents and caregivers would not send their child to this school because they would get unfit and large. Finally our brains need food, water and fresh air to keep mentally fit and function properly. Overall, as you can see, break time is vital to all children because we need fresh air, food, water, fitness and social time to achieve our learning goals to improve our skills and knowledge. So what do you think about banning break times now?

Storm: Cancelling break time! What an outrage! Break time is what keeps our bodies and brains mentally and physically fit. The school has said that they are going to cancel break time every day of the year. I think that this is going to be a tragedy. Firstly, if the school bans break time our brains will go out of

control because we will not be able to eat enough, and food keeps our brain going. Also it keeps our brains in control of our body because if we don't eat we could faint. Secondly, break time is not just for the students. It is also gives the teachers time to prepare for the next lesson. Also teachers need to eat as well. They are the ones teaching us so they eat more because they have to think a lot more than us and have to apply their brains more. Thirdly, children need to develop their social skills. Later in life if they do not have social skills they will not be able to make friends and develop relationships with other people. If they do have good social skills they will be able to go further in life. Break time is vital to students and teachers because break time provides time for socialising, eating to recharge the batteries that power the brain and to catch up on lesson preparation. So I believe that schools are crazy if they think that cancelling break time is a good idea.

Moutere Hills RSA

The monthly meeting of the sub branch focused on Poppy Day and the Anzac Day Services. Poppy Day donations contributed \$2135-80 to our Welfare Fund. Thank you to all the people who supported this appeal so generously.

More than 100 people attended the Anzac Service at Upper Moutere. Our thanks go to the school headmaster and the Lutheran minister who organised this. Twenty entries for the RSA Memorial Shield Essay competition were on display and these are now on display at the Mapua Library. The competition was again won by a Dovedale pupil.

An attendance of 150 at the Tasman service was addressed by David Young and incorporated a display of essays and presentations by school pupils.

Alan Archibald addressed the attendance of 350-400 at Mapua and a Bible reading and 'Flanders Fields' reading were given by local school pupils. It was noted that one RSA member aged 104 marched in the parade.

The thanks of the branch go to the three school principals involved, to the ministers, the Fire Brigade, the Pipe Band, the piper who played the Lament, the bugler, the Scouts, the Motueka Cadet Unit and to the Mapua Coastal Connections and Garden Groups who organised morning tea after the Mapua service. We also thank the TDC for the high standard of maintenance of the grounds of the RSA Room and Library

Motueka Cadet Unit.

Young people of the Mapua area who are interested in joining this are asked to contact local RSA members Norm Thawley, phone 540-2876 or Frank Gibbison, phone 540-3055 or any other RSA member. We are proceeding with the offer of one of our members to help with the transport and other costs involved in this. We were impressed by the turn-out and bearing of the cadets at our service.

Uniforms are issued but there is an attendance fee of \$30 per member per school term. Parades are held at the Motueka Events Centre each Monday from 6.30pm to 9pm for people aged from 13 years to 18 years. The RSA will be able to help with arrangements and costs.

If you have any interest in taking part in this worthwhile group please get in touch with us.

The next meeting of the sub branch will be the AGM at 2 pm on Monday 8 June at the RSA Library.

F H

Gibbison

Coffee award to Mapua



Mapua has done it again—won another award. Hamish’s ice cream parlour and café at the wharf has been judged to have the best coffee in the Nelson region by local radio station The Breeze breakfast show listeners.

Al Columbus, the station’s presenter, turned up last week to present Adele Calteaux, Hamish’s barista (and owner/operator) with a certificate marking the result of the listeners’ poll.

“When we asked who made the best coffee, so many people who are obviously passionate about their coffee said Hamish’s was the place,” said Al.

Adele said her parents used to own Robert Harris in Nelson and “I’ve been in the coffee game for many a year.”

She set up her present business with her husband Bruce three years ago to provide somewhere for people to relax without having to spend money on a full meal and to be able to have “a treat for the kids.”

“As a local, I am very proud to be serving our community the best coffee in the Nelson region at the best prices. Some of the locals commented to me since winning this award, that it is confirming what we and they already knew and that it is very well deserved. So of course that makes me feel incredibly proud of our coffee, staff and cafe in general.”

MAPUA COMBINED PROBUS

Club member Bill Williams introduced his long-time friend of some 50 years, Professor Richard Ross, as the Probus Club’s main speaker on 1 May. Richard gave a good variety of humorous stories of his early life in Hokitika to his present position as International Adviser for Films.

He admitted that he had no desire to become an actor. The only time he had some involvement in a film was when a film director wanted him to say “He was the voice of God”. This proved to give the audience plenty of laughter at the film’s premier.

Richard’s father owned a cycle shop in Hokitika. He considered his upbringing was somewhat hard as were his early school days. His English teacher often unjustly used the strap on him and his school friend. At the end of Richard’s schooling he decided to attend university in Christchurch. He didn’t enjoy the experience, gaining no qualifications. On leaving university he had no real idea of what he wanted to do. One evening a university friend talked him into seeing a film starring Humphrey Bogart. Richard was so inspired with the film he looked at possible career in journalism. After several initial knock backs, he was able to get a job with the Star Sun newspaper in Christchurch.

From there Richard’s journalism expanded and he had 17 years working in London for the BBC. From there his career took him to many countries around the world. He finished his talk saying that he considered the two great virtues in life were to develop the skills of observation and memory. It is probably a statement that the majority of club members would agree with.

Club member Nancie Bensemman was the club’s mini speaker. Nancie spoke of her early family history, beginning with her great- great grandfather. He came out from England ending up in the Brook Valley milking cows. Her father owned a dairy and tobacco farm in Dovedale. During her early married years Nancie lived in Nelson, but didn’t particularly enjoy the city life. During that time she spent most of her working days out on orchards in Hope. Nancie and her first husband had two girls. After an unexpected death of her first husband, she remarried and returned to live in her birth place of Dovedale.

David.Higgs

Animal Health File

Dr. Paula Short Tasman Bay Vets

69 Aranui Road, Mapua ph: 5402329

Food, glorious food!

The thing with writing a monthly column is that sometimes you struggle for ideas or inspiration for something topical and interesting for your readers. I have to admit that this month I was devoid of ideas and so I suppose I deserved it when the month's column idea hit me at 12:15am on a Sunday.

The phone rang, as it often does when you are on duty on the weekend. However, instead of a client it was one of my nurses. She had been out for the night and had arrived home to find that her old black labrador, Cherry, had chewed through the sturdy plastic container in which she kept her dog food and eaten 5kg of dog food. Now this is only a 25kg dog so she had eaten 1/5 of her body weight in food!

I rushed into the clinic. When Cherry arrived she had to be lifted out of the car. She waddled slowly into the clinic, her abdomen almost as wide as her body was long, and struggling to breathe properly with an abdomen so squashed full of food that her stomach pressed up against her diaphragm so tightly that she could not inflate her lungs. Her belly could be heard gurgling without the aid of a stethoscope. She was in a bad way.

You may be thinking why would a dog do such a thing? Since having my own labrador I have come to see that a dog doesn't need a reason! Some dogs just do not have an off switch. While I used to warn people about certain breeds that I called "food oriented",

I have now switched my terminology to "food obsessed"!

We made Cherry vomit by applying a special drug to the conjunctiva of the inside of her eye. She vomited copious quantities of food for an hour and began to feel a lot better. Once she was breathing better we X-rayed her to find there was still a massive amount of food inside her. She went home on strict instructions that she rest as we were worried that her massively dilated stomach could twist on itself, causing a life-threatening problem called gastric dilatation-volvulus. This is particularly common in larger breed dogs especially if they do a lot of exercise after eating. However, for the next few days Cherry did nothing but poo!

So the moral of the story here (because there always is one) is that dogs cannot be trusted when it comes to food! And remember, just because you don't think something is edible doesn't mean that your dog agrees. Things commonly mistaken for food include rat bait, slug bait, antifreeze, fish hooks and shoes. Hopefully next month's column inspiration won't keep me up until two in the morning!

Letters to the Editor...



Here and abroad

The Ruby Bay by-pass project continues at an amazing pace. A recent tour with Marc Papke, the on-site project engineer for DownerWorks EDI, was an eye-opener. We drove the new road from the Tasman end as far as Old Coach Road. Even though a bit required the four-wheel-drive being engaged, a surprising portion is finished and only awaiting the final paving courses. It is quite something to see. The major earth works at the southern end are real “in-your-face” stuff as all who drive that way are very much aware. The same is happening at the Tasman end with any major traffic disruptions still to come. A report from the contractors is in this issue of *Coastal News* to bring you up to date with their work in progress and what is to come in the coming month.

There has been much criticism of the National government’s transportation policies and plans for the future. More roads? More pollution? What about our carbon credits? Not to mention peak oil, global warming and eventual sea-rise. What about our carbon footprint? Well, what about it?

We, Shona and I, have just spent three days in Hong Kong on our way to London. Our big OE, as it were. The air pollution there is very unpleasant. The freeway from the airport was six lanes full of buses, taxis and trucks, surprisingly few private cars. An engineering feat of cuts, fills and bridges, all for the motor vehicle. It’s our by-pass just multiplied a few times. Get the idea? That’s how it is. So what’s a few new roads in New Zealand?

Now London. A regular maelstrom of the lot. They tell us the pollution is very bad here as well but unlike Hong Kong you can’t smell it or taste it. We have yet to experience their motorways. Yeah. Can’t wait to get onto the country byways.

Early on, I said “What about it?”. Well, this about it. Our human society, as a measure of its “progress” is dominated by its dependence on the internal combustion engine. It is oil baby, oil! Governments? Doesn’t matter. Take your pick, democracy, dictator, communist, whatever. All on the same track. It looks to me we’ve a long way to go before this juggernaut, our dependence on the motor vehicle, even thinks about slowing down. Let alone about turning itself around. Pessimistic outlook? I don’t think so. More like realistic.

Anyway. Paris, here we come. Carbon footprint not withstanding.

Hugh Gordon.

Yoga classes not welcome?

I read the article on Hills Community Church written by Marilyn Loken with great interest. As a relative newcomer I like the welcoming tone and if I had known about the opening celebration events might well have come along. I read that “the Church prides itself on truly being a church for the community with a new facility that will provide a wonderful venue for many additional community activities. The motto for this project has been: We are making a place for you.” So I was a little surprised when our yoga teacher Thomas Spring informed us that we were not welcome to hold our classes in the Church Hall because the minister said “it was too spiritual.”

Wendela Wright, Mapua.

Marilyn Loken responds:

I deeply regret Mr Spring got the impression that his group was not welcome or deemed “too spiritual” to use our hall.

As with any new facility, time and conversation is required internally to determine a criteria and policy for usage and we are still working through this process. We are giving careful thought and attention as to how many groups we can accommodate on a regular basis. This naturally means we will have to be selective with respect to the type of bookings we accept. And, as we are barely 30 days in the facility ourselves, we have yet to determine our own requirements for the space, nor have we fully explored what sort of community activities will be the most appropriate match for us.

Just prior to Mr Spring’s request it had been decided that no new bookings would be taken until we had completed this process of evaluation and that any requests for a booking must be submitted in writing outlining the group’s purpose and usage requirements. These applications would then be reviewed in light of our developed policy.

Unfortunately, at the time Mr Spring made his request, this information had yet to be communicated to the person handling our bookings—an oversight on our part. In the simplest of terms, Mr Spring caught me unprepared and in the moment of surprise I may not have communicated my concerns to him as I intended. I have since spoken with him and indicated that if he wishes to submit a written application for usage he is welcome to do so and that it will be reviewed in the near future with the full understanding that his request may or may not be accepted.

Contd:

By-pass progress report

Although rain slowed earthworks down a bit last month, the Ruby Bay by-pass project is still ahead of schedule and progressing well. Both bulk earthworks and final trimming has been continuing through the forest corridor from the Seaton Valley intersection north. Work has progressed into new areas which are more in the public eye and have impacts on the traffic. To date more than 700,000 cubic metres of earth has been shifted, more than 5km of drainage has been installed and work has begun on four of the seven major culverts.

The main milestones were:

- ◆ Continued bulk earthworks from Chaytor Hillside into Dominion flats including removal of unsuitable materials;

- ◆ Completed undercutting and bulk filling operations in Higgs Reserve with fill from Apple Valley West area;
- ◆ Construction of Tasman 1 (Upper Field Creek) major culvert continuing;
- ◆ Construction of Tasman 2 (Lower Field Creek) major culvert begun using an Aqua dam to keep Field Creek and the tidal influence from the estuary out so construction can occur in the dry;
- ◆ Completion of upper Dominion Creek diversion, species transferred from all diversions to date includes eels, inanga (whitebait), kokopu and bully;
- ◆ Lower Field Creek diversion completed with help from a class from Tasman School.

Joanna Orr, environmental manager



Letters contd:

We are committed to making our space available to the community but to truly be an asset requires careful planning which we are in the process of doing. Admittedly, once our policy is in place we may have to tell some 'yea' and some 'nay' but we truly do so without judgment toward those groups per se. To Mr Spring and the whole Mapua community we ask your understanding and patience.

Rev Marilyn Loken, Minister, Hills Community Church

Preparing work area inside of Aqua dam for Lower Field Creek double box culvert at the Tasman end of the Ruby Bay by-pass project.

Postal Delivery

We can post you the Coastal News. To take advantage of this post \$10 with your name and address to Coastal News, PO Box 19, Mapua Store, 7048. Include your new postal code for rapid delivery. Existing subscribers can also send their new code in by email coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz or by post.

French Trip—A Dream Come True

By Kit Clinton-Baker

Firstly thank you to all the people who bought my firewood or raffle tickets or wine and helped me fund-raise for my trip to France. I thought you might like to hear a little about what we did while we were there.

It is the 14th of April and at last we are in Nice on the Cote d'Azur. I meet my host family who are really, really nice and luckily are used to language students and speak slowly to start off with. Whew! Then that week we start at the Language School.

Our explorations included Vieux Nice, Cannes, Monaco (many flash cars) and the shop with 80 different varieties of ice-cream.

One day the group headed to a beautiful little hilltop village in the hills behind Nice named St Paul de Vence (only 1 euro on the bus) and while waiting for the bus back to Nice I tried my hand at busking. Sadly no one parted with any money.

Next we were off to St Remy, 25km south of Avignon. We had a lot to pack into our time there, including our first meal in a French restaurant, the Cathedrale des Image, a spectacular sound-and-light show on Picasso which was amazing, and kayaking on the Gardon River under a huge Roman aqueduct

A highlight of our trip was a visit to the College du Mourion in Avignon where we were given a very warm welcome. Our photo was taken by a reporter, after which we performed a waiata and haka. We thought this would be watched by a handful of people but in fact 200 students and staff turned up to watch. Afterwards we had to teach some boys the haka, play a little soccer and sign autographs.

Next was Le Quesnoy, from the south to the north aboard the TGV at speeds of 300kmh. It took only five hours. Le Quesnoy is the small town liberated by Kiwis in the First World War which we had read and heard so much about.

On ANZAC day along with large group of locals and some other Kiwis we set off to trace the steps of the New Zealand soldiers who had marched on Le Quesnoy from Beaudignies under heavy bombardment from the German-occupied town. The walk ended at the wall, at the point at which the New Zealand soldiers, at the risk of instant death, climbed all those years ago. A memorial dedicated to those brave men marks the spot and is revered by the locals. The Mayor told us it was our part of New Zealand in France, and when we were there we were at home

After lunch provided by the people of Le Quesnoy we were taken on a tour of some of the local cemeteries where we heard readings from the diaries of the soldiers, and listened to songs dedicated to them. It was all very moving. Some soldiers were only a little older than us.

On Sunday ANZAC Day commemoration services were held with full representation from the New Zealand Embassy in Paris. The townspeople's respect of the Kiwis that liberated their town all those years ago shows no sign of diminishing and they welcome all visitors from New Zealand with tremendous hospitality.

After the service in front of all the officials and visitors we four boys performed the haka. The crowd went wild! Seriously.

Then after an emotional farewell we boarded the train to Paris.

I won't write about Paris because I'm sure somebody much better than I has said it all before. But as you can imagine Paris in the springtime lived up to its reputation. We saw the Eiffel Tower all lit up like a Christmas tree, explored the great cathedrals, I had myself sketched at Montemarte and we wandered the streets of this most famous and beautiful of cities.

Now we are home and France seems a dream. A wonderful, action-packed dream. So once again thanks to all the people who made the trip possible?

Sam's Spam

March 2009

Hi readers. If I was to say "Windows Vista", I expect some of you would boo and hiss as if a villain had walked on stage! This operating system has caused so many problems for PCs (particularly in relation to compatibility with other software) that many people will be glad to see the back of it. Well, the successor to Vista has now arrived (almost) and it promises to sort out all the problems that have been really bugging people. Windows 7 is very similar to Vista but is more streamlined and easier to use.

To help win back favour with those customers who have been disappointed with Vista, plus stop Mac OS seeming more attractive by comparison, Microsoft is allowing people to download a release candidate version of Windows 7 and use it free for up to a year. The full finished version is due to be released by the end of 2009, at which time it will be available in stores and also will be the standard operating system on new computers. This generous move by Microsoft is not only good PR but also helps them to get feedback from users by automatically collecting data from them so they can iron out any further glitches.

I downloaded Windows 7 onto my PC last week and I'm really enjoying using it but have not yet given it a full test drive. However, I found a review

on stuff.co.nz and they gave it a favourable rating too – some key points are copied below:

'HomeGroups makes it a snap to set up a home network for connecting desktop and laptop PCs, sharing libraries and printers and even being able to play music and video clips that reside on another computer in the network. Libraries make it easier to keep track of your documents, music and photos regardless of where they happen to be.

An enhanced taskbar running along the foot of the screen is packed with subtle finesses and visual cues to help you manage and switch between programs, while the Activity Centre groups together all of Windows' bothersome notifications and pop-up alerts and tucks them away into a corner of the screen.

Windows 7 is certainly speedier than Vista and in some cases even than Windows XP. In testing, we found it started almost 20 per cent faster than Vista, was quicker to wake from its standby or sleep state and needed significantly less memory."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/digital-living/2385181/Windows-7-Its-Vista-done-right>

BOOK REVIEW

All books are available from the Mapua Library. New borrowers welcome.

The two books reviewed this month can both be found in the Young Adult section of the Mapua Library, but don't be deceived, adults will find them equally readable and they are both highly recommended. Reviewed by Sue England.

The first book, written by Matthew Johnstone, is non-fiction, graphic and entitled "I Had a Black Dog". Sir Winston Churchill was well known for his intermittent bouts of deep depression that he called his black dog and this is what the black dog in Johnstone's book is referring to—clinical depression. Having suffered from depression for most of his adult life and having a mother and brother that likewise suffered, he is an author who understands.

The book takes the form of a series of drawings of a man with a large black labrador and brief, associated captions. In simplistic terms, and in their own way beautiful, the pictures fully capture the pain and suffering of a depressed person but they also make you realise that you are not alone. It is not a textbook, it is not a manual, it is a most moving and understanding piece of work that will be of great benefit to sufferers of depression and their carers. It is full of hope and ultimately uplifting.

The second book has been in the library for a while but has been chosen for review at this time to complement the movie that is on current release. "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" by John Boyne is difficult to describe without giving away too much of the plot. Even the publisher, Random House, declines to give clues saying, "we think it is important that you start to read without knowing what it is about" and this is valid. I suggest that it is preferable to take book and movie in that order to appreciate fully the misunderstanding of certain words by Bruno, the nine-year-old central character that will be lost on film.

The backdrop for this book is Nazi Germany during the Second World War and the plight of the Jewish people in concentration camps. Bruno is an innocent, but his instinct dictates that he keeps his friendship with Shmuel, a boy with an identical birth date, secret. As the friendship grows we learn about their disparate lives and the author cleverly builds tension and sense of foreboding until the final, tragic conclusion. This book will make you weep with sadness and frustration at the futility of war; it will make you think and it will remind you of the innocent wonder seen through the eyes of a child.

MAPUA LIBRARY

Ph 540-2545



A good attendance at last month's AGM enabled the meeting to draw upon volunteers' varied skills to form a talented and enthusiastic committee for the coming year. Volunteers also farewelled Sarah McLeod, who for the past six years as chairperson, has capably steered the library through many successful growth projects. Tina, when presenting Sarah with a bouquet of flowers, said we had all appreciated her calm direction and delightful humour. Maxine Cook has also decided to step aside from the committee and will be missed for her fund-raising abilities.

The new committee is:

Chairperson, Dot Moriarty; **vice-chair**, Hugh Gordon; **secretary**, Val Hunter; **treasurer**, Denis Emery; **Committee**: Sue Brillard, Analee Emery, Eileen Dobbie, Tina Johansson, Heather Quinn, Sue England, Di O'Halloran and Catherine Butchard.

Many of you will have met the 30 volunteers who perform front-line duties—the efficient daily operation of issuing and shelving books. Behind the desk we have other people who put in many hours too. These include purchasing the books – Rose Stephens; in cataloguing and classifying—Rose and Ali McDougall; in processing and repairing – Mary Kininmonth and Anne Harrison; and developing our database – Janet Vincent. Additionally, a group of volunteers led by Val Hunter meet every Monday morning to chase up overdue books. This is how our library works—so many people generously giving their time to ensure that the library meets the needs of the community.

I look forward to working with these special people. Which brings me to another little project we undertake. We have a small exhibition space within the library. Over the past eighteen months we have displayed the work of many talented local people—art, photography, quilting, jewellery, and needlework. This has been very favourably received by our library members and the wider community. So, if you wish to exhibit your work, please contact Dot on 540-3276. Our next exhibition will be art work from the Thursday morning art group and commences on June 2.

Dot Moriarty

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 2pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 5pm – 6.50pm
Thursday 10am – 12.30pm

RUBY COAST – a new naming option?

Over the last few months the ‘Coastal Initiative’ group has met regularly and made significant progress in defining some strategies as our communities respond to the changes that the new by-pass will bring. This group includes representatives from the Mapua and Districts Business Association as well as from both the Mapua and District and Tasman Community associations. It was formed to review these changes and explore the best courses of action for the communities. One of the decisions made was to fully explore a new name that could be used for our district.

A new name isn’t an easy idea to swallow at first. The initial reaction is “what’s wrong with the old name?” or “why do we need that?” Well, firstly, we haven’t got a name that we can use broadly to define this place. The idea is not to rename anything, it is just to all agree on a reasonable general name we can use when we mean the whole place from Tasman to Mapua, the bit between the estuaries where we live. In reality we would get the best of both worlds, our distinctive villages can be in a distinctive district too!

A new district name should focus on our shared location and communities and also be an attractive banner for use by our business sector. It will help market the visitor attractions that keep our community vibrant, increasing local employment and improving amenities and infrastructure. These advantages, from jobs and a healthy local economy to profitable locally owned businesses, all need effective marketing. A great name is just a small part of good destination marketing, but it is a key part to get right.

The group deliberated for weeks and had expert advice along the way. In overview it was felt that the villages and settlements along the coast form a unique and attractive district, a coastal district that will be more clearly defined with the new roading arrangement. The recent growth and residential development have meant

new families coming here to live. New initiatives such as ‘Transition Towns’ suggest a stronger commitment to sustainability in our community as a way forward in the 21st century.

This year is a significant time for our communities. New challenges and important decisions, as well as new opportunities are upon us and key backbone strategies are needed to set the scene for the coming years. We see these broadly as:

- Enhance unity within our communities by sharing strategies, planning & collective lobbying
- Build a more sustainable local economy
- Create a recognizable destination which encourages visitors & new business/employment opportunities

A new district name will provide a good platform from which all of these strategies can progress. Lots of names came and went during the deliberations and we had intended to provide two or more choices for public comment, but in the end, we felt strongly about the name ‘Ruby Coast’ that it alone was selected as the preference. To learn the significance of the word ‘Ruby’ to this area, read the article titled ‘It’s a bit of a gem’. The adoption of ‘Ruby Coast’ as the name is, of course, up to us all. A name needs to be used by people to work.

Responses from the community are most welcome. Please try and get them to the group’s secretary before 15 June. After some consultation and review of public comments the group will look to the parent community organisations to endorse and adopt our new naming option!

For messages or correspondence please contact the group’s secretary, Janet Taylor. Either by email at coordinator@mapua.biz or phone 540-3364

Edited by Andrew Earlam (advertising) 540-2845, Terry Smith (editorial) 540-3203, and compiled by Barbara Mercer, 540-3022. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors. We aim to have the newsletter out by the 1st of the month. Deadline for paper copy at the Mapua Store and e-mailed items (preferred) to coastalnews@mapua.gen.nz is the 20th of the month. Small ads are by gold coin donation in the collection boxes, club notices free. Printed by the Tasman District Council.

It's a bit of a gem

The word ruby in Ruby Coast has a wistful, local and geological history. It poetically described the red quartz pebbles found on the coast, rather than real rubies. These quartz pebbles, often called chert or jasper, catch your eye with a deep red to amber gleam amongst the wet stones. This stone is called jasper for its colour and was poor man's ruby in folklore. Volcanism plays its part too, the red colour in our ruby is from iron oxides, impurities in the crystal that have their origin in the earth's liquid iron core; the true "middle earth".

The name of a gem fitted this coast well, a place of great scenic quality, a beachcombing treasure box, in the middle of a geologically fascinating area; Nelson rocks are noted for being the most varied in New Zealand. Most of the stones and pebbles on the coast are longshore drift material from the Motueka River or the nearby bluffs between the river and the bay. Those that have travelled the furthest have been flattened by the action of the waves and among them are granites and former molten rocks along with sparkling siltstones, sandstones and conglomerates from the western marble mountains of the Kahurangi National Park.



Next time you walk along Ruby Coast, check out the pebbles. There are so many colours and shades. Every pebble is part of our unique and ancient history,

our beachcombers' treasure box. They are sifted and sorted by tides and by two estuaries; rinsed twice a day. We are in just the right place in the corner of the "gold pan" of Tasman Bay to collect a lot of interesting stones and coloured pebbles from around the region. Rubbed smooth by the tides and sands, mixed with shells, sticks and weed, this coast is quite distinctive underfoot. The

beach isn't the only treasure chest on our coast, though.

The escarpment fringe has pockets of original coastal bush. These are areas of great plant variety with ideal conditions for good fruiting and continual flowerings. Podocarps such as the matai and ferns fill the gullies. Ngaio, kanuka, karaka, lancewood and titoki grow along the slopes. The titoki berry, a red gem on the bush floor, is another of the rubies in this story. Like many of the native coastal plants, these are food for the tui, whose calls are often heard across the gullies. The treasures are aplenty, it's a bit of a gem.

Under the Bonnet with Fred

Here is a review of two cars from the Classic Country Cruise held outside Mapua's Golden Bear Brewery last month. They are an Englishman and a quiet American

The Englishman:

Rick Lowe of Tasman bought his 1976 Reliant Scimitar GTE a year ago so we were lucky enough to see this interesting English sports car. It is a hybrid vehicle with Ford engine, Triumph running gear and Reliant chassis and fibre glass body retaining a bit of rugged sports car designed for the English country roads.

The engine is stolen from the Mk IV Zodiac, if we can remember a Zodiac, but a nice reliable 3 litre V6 engine hotted up for the Scimitar to produce 138bhp. Gearbox and running gear were borrowed from a Triumph TR6, along with most of the suspension. A simple rail chassis provides a ridged base for the fibre glass body. Rick's car is a model GTE 5A with a nice hill-climbing sport advantage of overdrive in 3rd & 4th to blow the opposition away.

The body had some forward thinking in design. By marketing the Scimitar as a sporting estate car, having spacious back seats for two people, it might have been the first hatchback with split fold-down back seats to throw your golf clubs in or a bale of hay.

With a power-to-weight ratio of 138bhp to only 1110kg, this makes the car quick and economical with Rick getting 33mpg on a trip back from Auckland. The spec on it says it will do 0 to 100kmh in 8.8 seconds with a top speed of 190kmh.

Coastal Connections

May the 14th dawned a beautiful autumn (fall) day and the sunshine continued to shine on our group at noon when we lunched at Jesters outside in their delightful grounds. Good to catch up again, lots of chatter. Heather D was absent but had good reason to be as she and hubby went up north to present themselves to their latest grandchild.

June's lunch will see us go Up the Garden Path in Motueka. All the very best for a great holiday to those ladies off north to warmer climes on cruises. Diana has promised to take her bikinis to the tropics. She should be in for a lot of "Bula Bula."

Best regards.

Julie Haliday

Even if Princess Anne did get one for her birthday in 1976 (did she pay for it?) it's still a salute to the small car-maker. Nick's car is a 33-year-old Scimitar GTE 5A with 110,000km on the clock, still has sports Cavleno tyres on, and it will never have rust problems. It is a good head-turner, a true classic.

A quiet American:

What can you say? Glass-like midnight-blue paintwork on an 87 Cadillac Fleetwood with sofa-like leather seats, chrome mouldings over the wheel arches and real chrome spoke wheels to finish it off—this car's got bling.

This car is American but different from the rest both inside and out. The owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, says the car is a rocket on the road, best

on the highway, so comfortable in those big sofa seats and passing is a breeze.

The engine an east-west 4.1 litre, V8, fuel-injected, set in front of the front wheels with four-speed transaxle transmission inline with the front wheels. The transmission is also the differential, all fixed to the chassis with half-shafts going out to independent front suspension and wheels.

We went for a drive! Up the passing lanes on the Coastal Highway and on our return past two late-model Jags, never to be seen again. Engine & transmission responding to power required to pass and climb hills making the 'little drive' a real motoring experience.

Then we slowed as turned back into Aranui Road, the car now quiet, no thump from the dip in the tar seal outside the Tavern, radio perfectly tuned to Classic Hits, a quite rumble from that V8 to remind us it was there when we needed it. Hmm! A car for all occasions.

Fred Cassin

Hills Community Church

Would've, Should've, Could've

I can say with certainty that a day doesn't go by when I haven't said: would've, should've or could've. As in—"I would've said something if I thought it would've made a difference," or "I should've known that would happen!" or "I could've taken the time to help if I wasn't in such a hurry."

You get my drift—all those moments when we know deep down inside that we dropped the ball, missed the opportunity or just plain messed up. Regrets. We all have them and for some of us they can be pretty hard to shake. We carry them around like a ball and chain. We beat ourselves about the head and shoulder over every little slip up.

How can we be so hard on ourselves, when we can so easily say to someone else: "Hey—no-one's perfect!" Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves?

Maybe we need to take the old adage: "To err is human, to forgive divine" and apply it more often to ourselves. The first part of this adage was a common Latin proverb "errare humanum est." In 1711, the English poet Alexander Pope wrote an "Essay on Criticism" in which he made the statement, "Good nature and good sense must ever join "To err is human; to forgive, divine."

Perhaps it would help if we acquired a bit more good nature and good sense when it comes to self-criticism. Gain a balanced perspective, pick oneself up, dust oneself off and just start all over again. For me, that's where the 'divine' bit comes in. As a Christian I know that I fall short of the glory God intends for me—daily. But I also know that I have at my disposal divine forgiveness. A spiritual bucket to drop all those would haves, should haves and could haves. Some days that bucket is pretty full; other days there is just a drop or two. If the day ends and the bucket is empty it's not because there have been no slip-ups. It's because I'm still hanging on to those regrets, turning

them over and over again in my mind, unwilling to give them the divine release they deserve; God ever so patiently waiting for me to let them go. I know I should, I know I could—ah, but if only I would.

*Imperfectly (sic) yours, Rev Marilyn Loken, Minister,
Hills Community Church*

"Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." Psalm 32:1-2

Regular Happenings @ Hills—

Hills Community Church is a community-based, multi-denominational church with historical roots in the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Pentecostal traditions. We offer both traditional and contemporary worship in an informal and relaxed style. Visitors and newcomers are most welcome. For more information call: 03 540-3848.

Sunday Worship: Traditional service 9am, Contemporary service & SPACE for Kids 10:30am; Holy Communion celebrated at both services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with morning tea between services. First Sunday of each month: one service @ 10.30am followed by a shared lunch.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 12:15pm—Anglican NZ Prayer Book Communion service followed by intercessory prayer

Wednesdays: 10am-noon—Kidz n Koffee. Open to parents-caregivers-pre-K kids—a great way to make new friends!

Fridays: 10am-noon—Craft n Coffee—learn a craft & share a laugh! Open to all, crèche provided

We also offer numerous home groups and youth activities.

Mapua Big Night Out Clothes Swap, Saturday 25 July

The date's set; word is getting round; second-hand fashion fervour is mounting! All round Mapua, Mahana and environs women are gathering their clothes. Yes – the Mapua Big Night Out Clothes Swap is only a few weeks away.

So what's it all about then? The Clothes Swap came about after a group of concerned people met in to discuss ways of making our area a more sustainable place to live. What better way to practise and encourage recycling than to have a fun social event where women can do what most love to do – go clothes shopping with friends! This time, however, it'll cost next to nothing.

For a \$20 ticket, you'll not only get the chance of a shopping lifetime, but you'll also score a glass of winter-warming mulled wine, some supper (maybe even a cupcake or two), and a luxury chocolate to boot. Marry that warm fuzzy feeling in your stomach with the warm fuzzy feeling in your heart from supporting a local fundraising event, and you'll go home a happy woman!

So how does it work?

Drop your clothes in to the Mapua Hall between 3.30–5pm.

- Clothes need to be
 - clean, good quality and in good condition
 - reasonably fashionable winter or spring items
 - Items can include most quality clothing, scarves, bags and shoes - BUT PLEASE – no underwear, sleepwear, swimwear or jewelry.
- You can bring as many items as you would like to the clothes swap, but you can only take a maximum of 10 items away – this is so that there are enough clothes to go round.
- Even if you don't have clothes to swap, you can still take some home if you want to for an extra cost (i.e. on top of your ticket price): \$5 for 1-2 items, \$10 for 3-5 items, \$15 for 6-10 items.
- You don't have to swap clothes – if you want to treat your ticket purchase like a donation and come just for the social occasion then that's just fine!

If you don't want to come along but would like to support the cause by donating some clothes then that will be fine too!

Unswapped clothes will be donated to charity. You can't ask for the clothes you brought back, sorry.

Where will the money go?

All profits made from the event will go towards community environmental projects.

Tickets on sale from June 15th from:

Tessa Maes, Mapua Country Trading, Zoom Hairdressers and Mahana School

ALSO - let us know, please, if you would be willing to lend us your full-length mirror for the event – we'll need lots! Contact Adele on 540-2793 or Paula on 540-3394.

Building consents not always needed



This month I will describe the basic types of work that you can undertake without having to obtain a building consent.

I will, however, enter a disclaimer right at the outset. Building consent authorities are not all that rapt with the legislation which came in to effect in October last year. Because like anything else that emanates from Parliament there are anomalies and a few traps for young players. I will highlight possible issues as we go along and summarise by stating in the strongest possible way that you must ask the planners or building consent administrators at TDC for advice before launching into work that you may have any doubts about in regard to the compliance with the building code.

I will limit my discussion to common building situations. For the complete Schedule 1 Exempt Building Work go to www.dbh.govt.nz which is the Department of Building and Housing web site and a basic source of information for designers and administrators.

A building consent is NOT required for the following work but any work done must comply with modern acts and regulations covering all building work. Most people outside the industry should get advice from building professionals here.

You can do repairs and maintenance where the structure of the building is not altered and similar materials are used to replace those removed. In other words you can replace weatherboards, windows, or finishing timber that has not withstood the test of time. You can install a new window or door but take time to find out about fixings and lintel sizes so what you put in place is compliant. You can put in a roof window or skylight without consent, which is absolutely amazing because they can be very difficult to fit. You can replace that old roofing iron so long as the framing is basically sound. Leaky nails or flashings can cause isolated pockets of rot and can be replaced OK but if the entire structure is unsound or sagging to the point that the integrity of linings and walls are threatened, then you should get advice before replacing the roof cladding. Concrete tiles often stress roof structures over time. If your roof, window, or door has failed and is less than 15 years old then the rules state that a consent is required to fix it. This is a leaky home issue and councils want to know about these things.

You can replace your kitchen joinery, sink, bath, shower, toilet and even move them around a bit but the plumbing must comply with the Plumbers' Gasfitters' and Drainlayers' Act 1976. You can do minor work on your drains such as moving a gully trap or repairing a broken drain but all plumbing and drain work must be done by registered professionals.

If you are adding new drains or sanitary fixtures a consent is required.

You can add an internal wall without consent which isn't all that useful in that most people want to take walls out. You can remove walls providing they are not supporting the roof or providing bracing for the overall structure. This can be complicated. Lintels, load-bearing walls and walls that provide bracing for the building are the key structural elements of a house. Older hand-framed roof structures can be very reliant on internal walls for support. A modern trussed roof relies on the external walls for support but the internal walls often provide bracing for counteracting the forces of wind and earthquake. You can alter walls and put in new doors and windows providing you don't disturb the existing structural integrity of the building.

You can build a retaining wall up to 1.5m high providing it is not carrying any additional load such as a driveway or building. This is good for landscaping or gardening.

You can build a fence up to 2m high for privacy. Always check in with the neighbours regarding boundary fences and read up on the Fencing Act 1978 in case of disagreement. You need a consent to build a pool fence or barrier on a deck over 1m high. If your deck is less than 1m high and doesn't encroach on any boundaries then no consent is required.

Any awning (fabric, glass, or metal) porch or veranda on the first storey less than 15sq.m does not need a consent.

An enclosed porch or conservatory less than 5sq.m is OK providing you don't break the weather-tight membrane of external walls or roof.

Any sleep-out less than 10sq.m is OK but no plumbing or cooking facilities are allowed without consent. It must be no closer to the boundary than its height (ie, if it is 2m high then it must be 2m from the boundary).

This should be enough information to get us all in deep trouble. The rules in full cover more than 40 pages. The *Coastal News* and Dave DeGray are only here to inform and cannot be held responsible for efforts of the noble DIY enthusiast in and amongst this plethora of rules and regulations.

If in doubt, ask.

Next month, planning and designing, the first steps in building.

*Dave DeGray, ph 543-2841 before 8pm Mon-Sat.
davedegray@xnet.co.nz*

Letter from Abroad

(This is from Ruby Bay summer residents who spent five weeks returning to their home in England. If anyone else has a "Traveller's Tale" to relate we would be happy to have it.—Editors)

Well, we're back—it started raining shortly after we passed Stonehenge on Thursday and it's not going to stop for the foreseeable future!

It was an excellent journey. It started in Gisborne for the centennial of Gisborne Boys' High School where we were able to catch up with various ex colleagues and students from the mid-70s. Most attendees were associated with the school before our time but it was interesting to note how some of my students were still very recognisable from their teens while others had completely changed. Gisborne remains a pleasant laid-back town.

Next on to Arizona. We stayed in Phoenix which is apparently the 5th largest city in the USA but as it spreads so far it did not seem at all overwhelming. It has little history and few points of interest but our main reason for being there was to see the Grand Canyon. We took a helicopter trip which started off gently enough flying over trees at about 200 feet. However, when we passed over the rim the ground was suddenly 5000 feet below us—there was a collective "Oh sh*t" from the passengers! The canyon is so large that it was difficult to get an understandable perspective. Probably the best way to take it in would be from the bottom.

Then Costa Rica—a real find. The tour used high-quality accommodation and was all inclusive so we could concentrate on seeing things. We did jungles, volcanoes, banana, pineapple and coffee plantations, beaches and museums. The flora and fauna were abundant and amazing. The country itself is successful; a stable democracy and has a significant middle class—all the dirty work is done by workers from its less successful neighbours. Our fellow travellers were mostly American but we were pleased to find a good scattering of Canadians (such a pleasant and civilised nation). The Americans were mostly from Texas (including four rednecks who occasionally left everyone

speechless) with a smallish contingent from the New York area (usually identifiable by being tense and having food issues). It was great having confirmation of so many stereotypes which I have carefully nourished and polished over the years! There was also a small collection of misfits, oddballs and the confused. It was all very memorable and we'd recommend the trip to anyone.

Onwards to Toronto to stay with my brother and his family. Spring was starting up, daffodils, tulips, trees in bud—it reminded us that we've not seen that part of the year for quite a long time—it has already happened by the time we get back to England. We took walks, visited historical sites, did some shopping, helped with various projects around the house and generally caught up with news and gossip over a glass or three.

Then to Boston to see Paul, Judith and Aoife (named after an Irish warrior princess). Paul has naming rights on the second daughter due in July. We've made two helpful suggestions based on the precedent of warrior princess, national relevance and unusual spelling—Boudicca or Xena—we detect a lack of enthusiasm for either! We were taken to see the Red Sox play baseball at Fenway Park, enjoyable and interesting with lots of people selling food! Went to "Truck Day" at the local primary school—fund-raiser where police cars, fire engines, rubbish trucks, ambulances, etc, are lined up for the kids to climb all over. Aoife is getting towards three years old, can write her own name, count close to 100 and is very articulate. Convincing evidence of genetics. Again did some walks and a little shopping (five \$50 shirts for a total of \$40!).

Finally a couple of nights in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on my brother's recommendation. It's a great little place—interesting, civilised, relaxed. Will happily go back there (properties are incredibly cheap and often palatial).

Here endeth the travellers' tale.

John & Jane Beswick

Anyone for a Ride !

As we hit the winter season, opportunities to get out and spin the legs become less frequent, as each week passes. So I am trying to entice any like-minded cyclists who fancy taking to the Tasman roads each Sunday morning.



As you know getting out there in the cold is hard on your own, but if we can get a group together then people will be more inclined to do so. Some of you will be aware of the Bunch rides held in Richmond. Well, this is a similar proposal

What I do propose is a regular get together, say 9am every Sunday, outside the Naked Bun café on Aranui Road, Mapua.

The idea is then to undertake a social bunch ride for anything up to two hours, taking in the superb local scenery as we go. Cyclist of all standards are welcome, and believe me I am no Lance Armstrong. But it is a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn correct road craft for those of us new to the sport.

The idea behind the Bunch ride is exactly what it states—a bunch. It's not a race, there are no podium finishes, and no one gets left behind.

So if you are keen to improve over the winter, let me know or just rock up to the Naked Bun on Sunday mornings.

Paul Heathcote, 540-2048

Charity Country Classic Cruise a success.

The inaugural Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise, held on Sunday 10th May, was a great success, say its organisers, Fred Cassin and Tim Moriarty.

“We knew that we would have a quiet initial event,” said Fred, “because the Nelson car rally scene is pretty busy this time of year and because it was Mothers’ Day. So, we were delighted with the entry of 25 first-class classic vehicles.”

First-class indeed! The entries’ ages (the cars, not the people!) ranged from a 1930 Ford Model A to a late model Porsche 911, with good representation from other great names: Cadillac, Chevrolet, Daimler, Holden, Jaguar, Land Rover, Lotus, MG, Morris, Reliant, Triumph, Volkswagen etc.

After the drivers’ safety briefing, the vehicles departed from Mapua Wharf and ran over two different scenic routes, completing challenging questionnaires along the way. The accent was on increasing peoples’ knowledge of our environs and history, with frequent rest stops.

The Route winners were Neville and Anne Bibby; Dave and Jacqui Kiernan. The Peoples’ Choice vote went to the Model A workhorse, which came home before many younger competitors.

All proceeds from the Classic Cruise went to the Mapua Community Hall. The Hall Committee chair, Mary Garner said, “The Cruise raised \$588 for the hall and we’re so very grateful—to the drivers, their friends and the many Mapua folk who came down at the end of the day to see and vote for the cars—for their great support. We know that everyone had an enjoyable Sunday run, and it gave us an opportunity to inform them about the importance of the hall to our community and our plans.”

Plans are already afoot to repeat the Mapua Charity Country Classic Cruise next year.

Noticeboard

St John Ambulance requires a few people to mind a collection stand either on the Friday or Saturday in the Mapua shopping area during St John Week June 21-28. Please contact Fiona Newey 021 230 7421 or 5466180.if you can assist

Rangers Rugby Club: Rugby training is underway at Moutere Hills Community Centre Thursday nights at 6pm sharp. Coaches: Mark/Steve 0274 229949, Manager: Alby 0272 290057, Asst Manager: Chris 021 540286. We welcome any new players. Come down for a run!

Need technical help? Can't connect your DVD player? Don't know how to download photos from your digital camera? Computer running slowly? Local help is at hand! Average job price only \$20! Basic web design also available - pages start from just \$35. Call Sam on 03 540 2804. – sambennett@live.jp

Skye Harvest Extra Virgin Olive Oil available fresh from the producer. Ph 540 2698. Orders delivered, or call in 113 Seaton Valley Rd Mapua.

Women's Recreation Group - meets outside Mapua Mall Thursday mornings. Leaves 9.15am for 1½ hour walk. Route varies. Join us whenever you can. Some members may cycle. For more info Lynley 540 2292.

Genealogy Computer Discussion Group: This year our bimonthly meetings will be 1.30pm on Saturdays on the following dates: June 13, Aug 8, Oct 10, and Dec 12. For information phone Val 540 3931 or Peter 540 2686.

Mapua Art Group: Painting/Drawing mornings every Thursday 9am-12.30pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. A group of like-minded artists get together to paint and help each other in a fun and social environment. All levels and media most welcome. \$4 session includes morning tea. Tables and chairs provided. Lisa Chandler, 540 3933.

Spinners, Knitters, Weavers – Wool Gatherers meet at Mapua Hall, second Tuesdays, 10am. All welcome.

Coastal Garden Group meet first Thursdays, 1.15pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Members, guests & visitors welcome. Barry Highsted 540 3139.

Kidz'n'Koffee Playgroup, every Wednesday (in school term), 10am-noon at Hills Community Church. Ages 0-5yrs. All parents & caregivers are welcome to attend, no cost, donation for morning tea. Come & relax & meet some neighbours. Lisa Gant 543 2530, Tressa Waynan 540 2632.

Toy Library: check out our extensive selection of toys, puzzles & videos for children 0-5yrs. Located behind the Mapua Hall every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 10-11.30am & 6.30-7.30pm. Phone Kerri 540 3386 or Gill 543 2195 about membership or casual hire.

Probus Club meets first Fridays, Mapua Hall 1.30pm. All retirees most welcome. Enquiries to Pres. Rosalie Wattereus, 03 582 9486, Secr. Margaret Butchart 5402686

PANZ (pastel artists of NZ) meet each Tuesday, Mapua Hall, 9am-noon. If you are interested in trying pastels as a painting medium, please join us. Glenys Forbes 540-3388.

Mapua Hills Rose Society (est 1949) meets 1st Mondays (except J months) 7.45pm, Supper Room, Mapua Hall. Rose lovers, growers, visitors and guests very welcome. Enquiries: Letty Thawley, 540 2876, Margaret Sinclair 03 528 8477.

YOGA with Robin - Classes weekly. All levels welcome. Call 540 2113 for class times & information. www.rubybayyoga.com

HOUSE CLEANING FAIRY available for part-time work. Please phone 540 3821.

Fullpower and Kidpower

gives you the opportunity to find your own, innate powers, to develop strategies for personal safety in a variety of situations and to feel capable & confident when faced with challenges.

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For more information or to register your interest, please Ph. (03) 543-2669 or e-mail newzealand@kidpower.org or go to www.kidpower.org.

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